

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Cost of Living In Opole

REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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1. The following approximate prices prevailed in the city of Opole in August 1952.
/Prices are given in zlotys./

Article	Prices in State Stores	Free Market Prices
Sugar, 1 kg.	5.25	16.50
Eggs, each	1.20	1.30
Milk, per lit.	1.45	
Butter, 1 kg.		70.00
Cream, per lit.	7.60	12.00
Flour, wheat, 1 kg.	1.00	
Rye bread, light, 2 kg.	3.50	
Rye bread, dark, 2 kg.	2.70	
Chocolate, 1 kg.	15.00	45.00
Pork sausages of good quality, 1 kg.	15.00	50.00
Sausages of horse meat, 1 kg.		26.50
Chicken, 1 kg.		40-50
Swiss cheese, 1 kg.	21.00	Not available
80% wool material, 1 m.	380.00	600.00
Men's wool suits Very poor quality)	1,800.00 700.00	2,000.00
Wool material for women's dresses, 1 m.	200.00	400.00
Women's shoes, best quality, 1 pair	580.00	1,200.00

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<u>Article</u>	<u>Prices in State Stores</u>	<u>Free Market Prices</u>
Men's shoes, best quality, 1 pair	490.00	900.00
Men's shirts, best	220.00	
Men's socks, medium quality	24.00	40.00
Women's slippers, medium quality	105.00	
Cotton chemise	120.00	
Nylon stockings, 1st quality	180.00	220.00
Nylon stockings, 2d quality	160.00	
Nylon stockings, 3d quality	150.00	
Nylon stockings, 4th quality	120.00	
Nylon head scarf		250.00
Nylon blouses	250.00	560.00
Leather gloves, medium quality	120.00	160.00
Tea, best quality, 1 kg.	400.00	
Poor quality coffee, 1 kg.	400.00	
Coal, 1 tn.	120.00	
Canned fish (40 decagrams)	6-9	
Fresh fish (cod) per kg.	3.00	

Rent for an unfurnished, state-owned, apartment, including dining room, bedroom, small living room, kitchen, and toilet, (no bath); 17.50 zlotys per month.

Utilities for an apartment, including gas, light, water, 50-100 zlotys per month.

Small dining table with four chairs, a cupboard, and a small cot-sized bed, 3,000 zlotys.

2. Average wages and salaries were as follows: (monthly)
 - a. A day laborer, 400-600 zlotys.
 - b. Office worker, average wage, about 500 zlotys.
 - c. Director of Central Fisheries, gross, about 1,200 zlotys.
3. Of the products listed above, meats and any meat products such as sausages, were always rationed. Cheeses and milk were rationed only if a shortage existed. Bread was not rationed, but one could not be sure of getting a loaf of bread each day. Shortages existed in all food products. As for the items of wearing apparel, these could be purchased if one had the money. The quality of the fabrics, however, was so poor that after one wearing, a poor quality suit would seem to have aged a year.
4. Members of the UB (Security Police) could buy from their own stores. The quality of the products sold in these stores was better and the prices lower. Party members had no special privileges except in the purchase of meats. They could sometimes order meats without the use of ration cards through their places of employment from the Central Meats (Centralna Miesarnia).
5. Ration cards were issued to workers by the management of the factory where the worker was employed. The cards were classified something as follows:
 - Class A-I -- a very heavy laborer who got one kilo of meat per month
 - A-2 -- a heavy laborer who got about 950 gr. of meat per month
 - A-3 -- a medium heavy laborer, about 900 gr. of meat per month
 - B-I -- medium worker
 - B-2 -- light medium
 - B-3 -- light
 - DZ-1 -- for children from age 4 to 14
 - DZ-2 -- for children to age 4

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There were also C-1 and C-2 cards for disabled persons, who qualified for them if they had worked for a specified number of years before their disability was incurred. Key workers, such as engineers or directors, got special ration cards called Cards "D" or "C".

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6. The free market consisted chiefly of the farmers' market. Out of about 200 shops in the city of Opole, only about 10% were privately owned, and these sold only bakery products, candy, or toys.
7. In a household where the monthly income would be between 500 and 600 zlotys, a person could afford the following menu:

Breakfast: Two slices of bread with cheese or marmalade.

Lunch: Bread; meat perhaps twice a week, or fish, with vegetable -- usually potato.

Dinner: Bread; fish or meat about twice a week, and tea.
8. The factory restaurants or canteens would serve about 25 lunches per month for a total of about 90 zlotys. The meals were so meager that one always left the table hungry. If there was meat, it was beef, hamburger, or fish. If there was no meat, dumplings were served with gravy. Meat was served about three times per week. A vegetable was always served, usually cabbage, and there was tea. In the second and third class restaurants, which were accessible to anyone if he could pay for the dinner, an average meal without meat cost about three zlotys. There were two meatless days per week. A dinner with meat cost about 20 zlotys. In place of meat, egg pancakes or dumplings with salt pork were served. The meat dinners would include chicken, goose, sausages, venison, or fish. The meat portions, however, were very small. In the case of chicken, about half a breast would be served. Coffee or tea was not included in these prices and had to be paid for separately. In a first class restaurant, the meals cost about 100% more.
9. Workers' apartments were allocated with allowances of at least 12 sq. m. per working person. For the unemployed, a housewife, for example, 9 sq. m. were allocated; for children, 9 sq. m. The kitchen and toilet were not included. There was no central heating in these apartments. There was a stove in each apartment, and each person was allowed 500 kg. of coal for the winter. The units were built in apartments of 10 which usually had four three-room apartments, two two-room apartments, and four one-room apartments. Although the apartment buildings were new, some of the buildings sagged unevenly because of bad foundations; the lumber in the buildings was warped and the plaster cracked.

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